



*News Release from Congressman*

# ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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CONTACT: TODD MITCHELL  
202/225-3537

## DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL: A WINNER FOR OUR TROOPS; CONNECTICUT

*Simmons Secures \$400 Million For Second Sub; Critical Dollars for Pratt; Sikorsky Jobs*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today announced that the Congress has sent to the president the fiscal year 2007 Defense Authorization conference report (H.R. 5122). This authorization bill puts forth a major shift in U.S. sub-surface shipbuilding while providing our troops with the necessary body armor, armored Humvees and other protective equipment.

Addressing the entire Congress from the floor of the House of Representatives late Friday, Simmons said, "This bill is good news for our men and women in uniform. This bill is especially good news for the U.S. Submarine Force and the American shipbuilding industry."

The defense authorization conference report includes the following programs:

### Submarine Work In Connecticut

- **Virginia Class Submarine.** Authorizes \$2.5 billion for one Virginia-class submarine, in addition to \$400 million for the advance procurement of a second Virginia Class attack submarine in 2009, three years before the Navy currently plans.
- **Attack Submarine Force Structure.** Expresses a sense of Congress that the attack submarine force should not drop below 48.
- **Submarine Design Industrial Base.** Includes more than \$60 million in research and development projects to enhance the capability and reduce the cost of the Virginia Class submarine. Specific projects affecting Virginia Class program managed by EB include:
  - \$16 million for Large aperture bow array on Virginia class;
  - \$15 million Flexible payload module and Virginia payload interface module development;
  - \$6 million for Large displacement UUV at sea launch and recovery;
  - \$23 million for Virginia Class Affordable Design;
  - \$3 million for High Temperature Superconducting Generator Study.
- **Maintenance.** Fully funds naval maintenance requirements, including short-term maintenance performed on Groton-based submarines by the Electric Boat Company. In addition, the conferees have convinced the Navy to weigh the cost to the government and Navy families of moving submarines from homeports for maintenance jobs, a change that puts EB in a better position to compete for maintenance work.

## Other Selected CT Defense Interests

- **Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).** The conferees agreed to authorize a total of \$4.37 billion for both Navy and Air Force JSF development.
- **Multiyear Procurement Authority for F-22 Raptor Fighter Aircraft.** The budget request contained \$1.5 billion for the F-22 aircraft procurement program, but included insufficient funds to procure 20 F-22s in FY2007.
- **Extra C-17s.** \$4.6 billion for procurement of 22 C-17 cargo aircraft, extending the life of the production line.
- **More Blackhawks.** Hundreds of millions of dollars to replace the Army and Navy's Blackhawk helicopter fleets.

## Funding for the Troops

- An additional \$70 billion in supplemental funding to support the war on terror's operational costs, personnel expenses, procurement of new equipment and the necessary immediate funding to reset the force.
- Additional funding for force protection needs in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including up-armored Humvees, Humvee IED protection kits and gunner protection kits, improvised explosive device (IED) jammers and state-of-the-art body armor.
- Fully funds the immediate Army and Marine Corps shortfalls for readiness and equipment reset.
- 2.2% pay raise for all members of the armed forces.
- Additional increases of 30,000 Army and 5,000 Marine Corps for active duty end strength to sustain our required missions.

## Force Protection in Iraq and Afghanistan

- \$109.7 million for signal jamming devices that will prevent the radio-initiation of roadside bombs, including:
  - \$69 million to provide jammers that can be carried by individual military personnel, providing an umbrella of protection for dismounted patrols, and
  - \$40.7 million to provide enhanced vehicle-borne jammers that are effective in meeting current and emerging threats.
- \$1 billion for the procurement of Level 1 Up-Armored Humvees (UAHs) for Army, Air Force and Marine Corps units.
- An increase of \$214 million for the procurement of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) fragmentation kits and gunner protection kits for Up-Armored Humvees.
- \$800.7 million for the continued production of state-of-the-art body armor and associated components, an increase of \$735 million over the budget request.
- An increase of \$83 million to procure Armored Security Vehicles (ASV) and address an unfunded requirement by the Army Chief of Staff.